

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7026  
By Fowlkes

A RESOLUTION to honor and applaud Head Coach Gerry Cleary and the Martin Methodist College women's soccer team upon winning the 2005 NAIA National Championship.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful sports teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Martin Methodist College women's soccer program is one such estimable sports team that achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2005 season, establishing a record of twenty-three wins against one loss and one tie on the way to claiming the NAIA National Championship Title; and

WHEREAS, the Martin Methodist College women's soccer team rolled through the NAIA National Tournament by prevailing over the powerhouse teams of McKendree College (by the score of 2-0), Concordia University (2-0), and Westmont College (1-1, 4-3 PK) in a juggernautish romp into the NAIA National Championship Game; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Redhawks completed their perfect tournament record by defeating Lee University (1-0) to claim Martin Methodist's first ever NAIA National Championship Title; and

WHEREAS, before advancing to the NAIA National Tournament, the Martin Methodist women's soccer team coasted through the TranSouth Conference Tournament by defeating Crichton College (8-0) and Cumberland University (4-0); and

WHEREAS, displaying magnificent skill and talent, the Lady Redhawks crushed Georgetown College (6-1) before defeating Lindsey Wilson College (2-1) in overtime to clinch the NAIA Region XI Tournament Title; and

WHEREAS, the Martin Methodist College women's soccer team includes players, Maria Sonnerborg, Nicole Scherger, Rachel Sharp, Victoria Charnley, Johanna Botold, Jessica White, Clare Sykes, Kelly Lewicki, Mizuki Yoshida, Amanda Johansson, Azusa Takeuchi, Sara Perrigan, Maiko Higashiyama, Lisa Mann, Harumi Someya, Megan Finnegan, Emily Allegood, Tassia Gimenez, Manuela Schuh, Nicole Grochowsy, Julia Bazi, Karen Carmack, and Sarah Prendergast; and

WHEREAS, Maria Sonnerborg, Victoria Charnley, Johanna Botold, Clare Sykes, Kelly Lewicki, Sara Perrigan, Maiko Higashiyama, Harumi Someya, and Sarah Prendergast were named All-Conference; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Maiko Higashiyama (NAIA National Tournament Most Outstanding Defender), Johanna Botold (NAIA National Tournament Most Valuable Player), Lisa Mann, and Clare Sykes were also named to the NAIA National All-Tournament Team; and

WHEREAS, receiving All-America honors were Clare Sykes (First Team), Kelly Lewicki (Third Team), Amanda Johansson (Honorable Mention), Maiko Higashiyama (First Team), Harumi Someya (First Team), and Sarah Prendergast (Honorable Mention); and

WHEREAS, as a team, Martin Methodist recorded the third most shutouts in NAIA history with 17, the fifth most goals with 125, the third most assists with 125, and the fifth fewest goals allowed with just 8; and

WHEREAS, named the 2005 NAIA Region XI Coach of the Year, Gerry Cleary laid the groundwork for this year's championship team by sharing with these young women his substantial knowledge of soccer, his many years of coaching and athletic experience, and his passion both for the sport of soccer and for excellence in every endeavor; Head Coach Cleary's amazing career record of 50-11-4 serves as a testament to his excellent coaching skills; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the able leadership of Head Coach Cleary, Martin Methodist University benefited from the tireless and committed work of Assistant Coach Peter Anthony; and

WHEREAS, the women's soccer players at Martin Methodist College epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved a premier level of success in competition while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the field; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young women not only made possible a championship soccer season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future enterprise; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Martin Methodist College women's soccer team for winning the 2005 NAIA Women's Soccer Championship and for serving as examples of the exceptional quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Head Coach Gerry Cleary and the Martin Methodist College women's soccer team upon winning the 2005 NAIA National Championship and wish them every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.